

William Grosskurth (- 29 Aug 1936)

Grosskurth, William. On Saturday, August 29, 1936, at the residence of his son, Alfred R. Grosskurth, 409 5th st. s.e., William Grosskurth beloved father of William F. Arthur R., Carl W. Grosskurth and Mrs. Alma M. Maguire. Remains resting at the Lee funeral home, 4th st. and Mass. Ave. n.e., where services will be held on Monday, August 31, at 2 p.m. Relatives and friends invited. Interment Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, August 31, 1936, p. A12

W. Grosskurth, 79, Musician, Expires



William Grosskurth

Was Friend of Sousa and Former Member of U.S. Marine Band

William Grosskurth, 79, former member of the Marine Band and a friend of the late John Philip Sousa, died Saturday at his home, 409 Fifth street northeast, after a long illness.

Mr. Grosskurth left his native Germany as a boy to play the trombone in one of the old street corner German bands of New York. Later he enlisted in the Navy, playing for three years on the old wooden ship Pensacola.

It was when Mr. Grosskurth was playing the cornet in the old "dime museum" here that Sousa first heard him. Impressed, Sousa, then leader of the Marine Band, created a place in his group for Mr. Grosskurth. While with the Marine Band he played at the dedication of the Washington Monument.

When he left the Marine Corps, Mr. Grosskurth played in Washington theaters. He played his horn at Theodore Roosevelt's inaugural ball in the old Pension Building. His last engagement was in the old Knickerbocker Theater in 1921, the season before its disaster. Since then he had played only occasionally, for diversion.

Mr. Grosskurth was one of the last surviving charter members of the Washington local of the Musicians' Union.

He is survived by three sons, William F., Carl W. and Alfred R. Grosskurth, and a daughter, Mrs. Alma M. Maguire, all of Washington, and a brother, Charles Grosskurth of Vallejo, Calif., retired leader of a Navy band on the West Coast. Funeral services were to be held at the Lee funeral home at 2 p.m. today, with burial in Congressional Cemetery.

The Evening Star, September 1, 1936, p. A10

William Grosskurth, Musician, Is Buried

Marine Band Veteran Who Played Under Sousa, Came From Germany as Immigrant

Funeral services for William Grosskurth, 79, of 409 Fifth street northeast, old-time Washington musician who played in the Marine Band when John Philip Sousa was its leader, were held yesterday at the Lee funeral home. Burial was in Congressional Cemetery.

Mr. Grosskurth played at the dedication of the Washington Monument and at Theodore Roosevelt's inaugural ball.

More than 50 years ago, as a German immigrant boy, he played the trombone in a street-corner German band in New York. Relatives said he maintained his interest in music from that date until three weeks ago, when, for the last time he picked up his old trumpet to play a few familiar tunes.

The Washington Post, September 1, 1936, p. X4

W.S. Grosskurth, Sousa Friend, Dies

Funeral services for William S. Grosskurth, 79, friend of John Philip Sousa and former member of the United States Marine Band, were held yesterday at the Lee funeral home. Mr. Grosskurth, who died Sunday after a long illness at his home at 409 Fifth street northeast, was buried in Congressional Cemetery.

Sousa gave Mr. Grosskurth a position in the Marine Band, with which he later played for many years. After his retirement from the Marine Corps Mr. Grosskurth played the cornet for several years in Washington theaters. One of the few surviving charter members of the Washington local of the Musicians Union, he retired from professional work in 1921.

He is survived by a daughter, Mrs. Alma M. Maguire, and three sons, William F., Carl W. and Alfred R. Grosskurth, all of Washington, and a brother, Charles, of Vallejo, Calif.